

## REMARKS

1. In the Office Action mailed July 12, 2006, the Examiner has withdrawn the allowable subject matter in Claims 14 and 15, and rejected the two claims under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by Daneshvar (5,383,893). To better reflect the invention as disclosed in the original application, Applicant has amended Claim 14 by specifying that the body of an animal cover has “a neck end fitting around the animal’s neck, and a buttock region.” The supporting language can be found on page 4, lines 11-24, which recites

“The front end of the horse blanket comprises a cut away portion 8 designed to fit around the horse’s neck, resting just above the withers. Alternatively seen... the horse’s head. The rear sides of the horse blanket comprises flaps 12, which are fitted around the hip of the horse...well known in the art.” (See page 4, lines 10-16).

“It is to be understood...a horse blanket. Those of ordinary skill in the art will readily adapt the current invention to fit a variety of covers beyond blankets, and the covers comprising the current invention are useful on more animals than just horse. These variations are within the scope of the current invention.” (See page 4, lines 17-24).

Claim 14 is now patentably distinguishable from Daneshvar. Daneshvar teaches a wrap specifically for the buttock region of a person. However, Daneshvar fails to teach an animal cover having a neck end fitting around the animal’s neck. Thus, Claim 14 and its dependent claim 15 are now patentable over Daneshvar.

Applicant has also amended Claims 14 and 15 for clarity only and no new matter has been introduced. Applicant has also added two new claims (Claims 37-38), all dependent from allowable Claim 14. Thus, these new dependent claims should be also allowable. The supports for these new claims are supplied below in the “Table of Exemplary Support”

2. The Examiner has also rejected Claims 1, 5-7, 13, 16, 27, and 28 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tadauchi et al. (JP10113088A). Applicant has canceled Claims 6, 27, and 28 without prejudice, rendering the rejections against Claims 6, 27, and 28 moot. Similarly to the

amendment of Claim 14 as described herein above, Applicant has amended Claim 1 by specifying that the body of an animal cover has “a neck end fitting around the animal’s neck, and a buttock region.” Claim 1 is now patentably distinguishable from Tadauchi. Tadauchi teaches a harness for cooling the head part of a horse by covering the part from the front head to upper part of the back of the neck. However, Tadauchi fails to teach an animal cover having a buttock region. Thus, Claim 1 and its dependent claims (Claims 5, 7, 13, 16, 27, and 28) are patentable over Tadauchi. Applicant has further amended Claims 5, 7, 13, and 16 for clarity and no new matter has been introduced. Applicant has also added eight new claims (Claims 29-36), all dependent from allowable Claim 1. Thus, these new dependent claims should be also allowable. The supports for these new claims are supplied below in the “Table of Exemplary Support”.

3. The Examiner has further rejected Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10, 12, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Beeghly (US 5,537,954). As discussed above, Applicant has canceled Claim 6 and amended Claim 1 by including a flap adjustably attached to the buttock region of the body of the animal cover for securing the animal cover on the animal. Claim 1 is now patentably distinguishable from Beeghly. Beeghly teaches a pet sweater having pockets for a thermal energy generation device, but fails to teach a pet sweater with a flap attached. Thus, Claim 1 and its dependent claims (Claims 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12, and 16) are patentable over Beeghly. As discussed above, Applicant has also added eight allowable new claims (Claims 29-36) dependent from allowable Claim 1. Applicant has further amended Claims 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 12, and 16 for clarity and no new matter has been introduced.

4. The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-7, 16-17, and 27 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by DE20021260U1 (“DE260”). In light of cancellation of Claims 6 and 27, the rejections against these two claims are rendered moot. Claim 1 now contains a limitation that a flap adjustably attached to the buttock region of the body of the animal cover for securing the animal cover on the animal, and thus is patentably distinguishable from DE260. DE260 teaches a horse blanket comprising a plurality of pockets for heat pads, but fails to teach a horse blanket with a flap attached to the buttock region of the blanket. Thus, Claim 1 and its dependent claims (Claims 2-5, 7, and 16-17) are now all patentable over DE260. As discussed above, Applicant has also added eight allowable new claims (Claims 29-36) that are dependent from allowable Claim 1. Applicant has

amended Claims 2-5, 7, and 16-17 for clarity and no new matter has been introduced.

5. The Examiner has rejected Claim 9 as being unpatentable over Beeghly. Applicant has cancelled Claim 9 without prejudice, thus rendering this rejection moot.

6. The Examiner has rejected Claim 11 as being unpatentable over Beeghly in view of Llamas (US 5,361,563). Beeghly teaches a pet sweater having pockets for a thermal energy generation device, but fails to teach a pet sweater with a flap as required by the independent claim 1, from which Claim 11 depends from. Llamas teaches a one-piece horse cover made out of a material that wicks moisture. As such, Beeghly and Llamas fail, individually or in combination, to teach each and every limitation in Claim 11. Thus, Claim 11 is patentable over Beeghly in view of Llamas.

7. Support for the new claims (Claims 29-38) can be found in the following table:

Table of Exemplary Support

<b>Claim No.</b>	<b>Claim Language</b>	<b>Supports</b>
29	The animal cover of claim 1, wherein the animal cover further comprises a flap cavity that is attached to the flap.	"Cavity 16f, located on the flap 12 of horse blanket 2" (page 5, lines 26-27).
30	The animal cover of claim 29, wherein the flap cavity is adjustable along the flap.	"[C]avity 16f is adjustable along flap 12..." (page 6, lines 12-13).
31	The animal cover of claim 29, wherein the flap cavity is slideably connected to the flap.	"Cavity 16f is slideably connected to flap 12" (page 6, line 15).
32	The animal cover of claim 29, wherein the flap cavity further comprises a layer that forms a shaft to allow the flap cavity to slide along the flap.	"Cavity 16f can be crafted...having an added layer of material forming a shaft to allow for sliding along flap 12" (page 6, line 17-18).
33	The animal cover of claim 29, wherein the flap cavity is located inside the flap.	"[T]he cavity is formed within the flap" (page 6, line 19).
34	The animal cover of claim 1 further comprising a cut away portion at the neck end of the body of the animal cover to fit around the animal's neck.	"The front end of the horse blanket comprises a cut away portion 8 designed to fit around the horse' neck" (page 4, lines 10-11).
35	The animal cover of claim 1 further comprising a protrusion attached to the neck end of the body of the animal cover, whereby the protrusion covers at least a portion of the animal's neck.	"[T]he horse blanket comprises a protrusion 10 that covers a majority of the horse's neck, stopping just short of the horse's head" (page 4, lines 11-13).
36	The animal cover of claim 1, wherein the flap is attached to the buttock region of the body of the animal cover such that the animal cover is secured on the animal by wrapping the flap around the animal's thigh.	"Flap 12 is designed to form part of horse blanket 2 that wraps around the thigh of a horse. This optional flap 12 is useful for securing the horse blanket on a horse" (page 5, lines 27-29).
37	The animal cover of claim 14 further comprising a cut away portion at the neck end of the body of the animal cover to fit around the animal's neck.	See Claim 34.
38	The animal cover of claim 14 further comprising a protrusion attached to the neck end of the body of the animal cover, whereby the protrusion covers at least a portion of the animal's neck.	See Claim 35.

### SUMMARY

It is believed that the foregoing amendment and argument deals with all grounds of objection and rejection, and that all of the claims remaining in this application are in order for allowance.

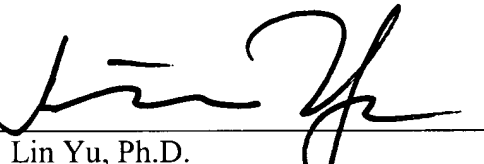
Should the Examiner believe that prosecution of this application might be expedited by further discussion of the issues. She is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned representative for the applicant at (619) 696-6700 or at [lyu@gordonrees.com](mailto:lyu@gordonrees.com).

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Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 11, 2007

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Attorney Docket No. RCVR-1043274